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to know ?) gets a favorable view in tracing the origin of all the early measures to the urgent need of reducing the suffering or allaying the discontent of the people. He believes it has continued to render the "struggle for existence less brutal to the whole of the laboring class," that it has reduced crime, and has made for political stability. The other author, studying the operation of the institution in the present, in a period of increasing wages and of growing intelligence, and viewing it through the preconceptions of his social philosophy, sees in it a baneful survival of outlived communal conditions. From an inductive study of its origin one has reached a favorable judgment; starting with a deductive conclusion and seeking facts to verify it, the other strongly condemns. The judicial reader may be able to harmonize in a measure, and justify both points of view, and at all events will find food for thought in a fuller comparison of these latest contributions to the history of an institution, the deeper social significance of which, we are beginning to see, has not yet been fathomed.

F. A. F.

STANFORD UNIVERSITY.

Compte rendu officiel du quatrième congrès de L'Alliance Co-opérative Internationale. Londres: Alliance Co-opérative Internationale, 1900; 8vo, pp. 203.

THE International Co-operative Alliance, organized in 1886, held its fourth meeting during July 1900, at Paris. There were present voting representatives of a hundred societies, federations, and unions, from a dozen different countries. It may be noted that there were representatives from East India and Tunis, and that there were none from the United States.

The first day was largely given up to reports upon the condition of co-operation in the different countries. The information given is for the most part fresh, but is very generally lacking in completeness. It is to be regretted that this was not made the occasion for presenting with some fullness not only the progress made since the Delft meeting in 1897, but also the present conditions as to membership and operations. The one fact in every report made clear, is the substantial gains recently made in all countries. There is little divergence from characteristic national development to be noted. M. Gide points out, however, the recent rapid growth of consumers' societies in France, and attributes

it to the rise in prices, which has in turn been due to the influence of the protective system and to the multiplication of small merchants. The same writer points out also the arrest of the growth of profit sharing, which has been a characteristic French movement. His explanation for this, rather tentatively advanced, lies in the prevailing prosperity. Profit-sharing develops more rapidly in the seasons of the "lean kine" than in those of the fat.

The remaining three days of the congress were filled with addresses and discussions on a wide range of subjects, as the different forms of co-operative production, profit-sharing, the utility of the "wholesale," co-operative education, the fraternal side of co-operation, etc. The two most important addresses were, one upon the means of developing the work of the alliance, by Henry W. Wolff, and one upon the promotion of commercial intercourse between co-operators in different countries, by Lorenzo Ponti, of Rome.

In the opinion of Mr. Wolff the alliance had not yet begun to do its real work. Nothing had been done directly to promote productive co-operation; nothing to encourage the sharing of profits with workmen employed in co-operative production; nothing to encourage international commercial relations, or to spread the gospel of co-operation—the special duty of the organization. He asked that more power be placed in the hands of the central committee of the alliance, which has its headquarters in London, and to this end the statutes were ordered changed.

Growing out of Ponti's address was a resolution for establishing in those countries where there is no "wholesale," "permanent expositions" as a means of advertising, by samples and otherwise, the products of widely scattered co-operative societies. These it is hoped will serve the double purpose of encouraging closer relations between different classes of societies within the country, and of promoting commercial intercourse between co-operators in different countries.

The Alliance upholds the high ideals so strongly impressed upon the English societies by Hughes, Holyoake, Neale, and others, that co-operation has something more for its end than the satisfaction of material needs. The propagandist spirit has for its object the combating of vices of all sorts, the encouragement of moral and intellectual instruction to the end that "the earth may be rendered more favorable for the development of the co-operative régime." This was the theme of M. de Boyve, of Nîmes, and the sentiment found

frequent expression during the congress. With such a spirit prevalent, with tangible, constructive work to do, and with so natural a channel as trade to operate through, it seems not unlikely that this most important working-class movement yet inaugurated may prove the means of establishing, though in a way not anticipated, the "International," of which European workingmen of the generation just passing once dreamed. There is evidence, too, that the successors of those who formed the old "International" are coming to recognize in co-operation a means to their end. In Belgium, where the working class has shown, perhaps, a greater solidarity than elsewhere, the movement has been gaining ground most rapidly and now embraces one twelfth of the total population of the country. In one *arrondissement* 43 per cent. of the population are found in a "socialist co-operative." "We have shown," said M. Zéo, that if we are socialists we are also co-operators." In France, also, M. Gide reports that the socialists who formerly disdained co-operation as *bourgeoise* have recently, with the exception of the Guesdists and the Marxists, who still remain irreconcilable, thrown themselves into the movement with vigor.

G. O. VIRTUE.

Newest England. Notes of a Democratic Traveler in New Zealand, with some Australian Comparisons. By HENRY DEMAREST LLOYD. New York: Doubleday, Page & Co., 1900. 8vo, pp. 387.

IT must not be assumed from the subtitle and the half-tone illustrations that Mr. Lloyd has written a book of travels recording merely the impressions of a sight-seer. He went to New Zealand with a serious purpose—"to see what had been done for a higher social life, by the methods of politics, in the country in which those methods have been given the best trial." In pursuance of this intention he has evidently made a study of yearbooks and departmental reports, and even dipped into the files of parliamentary debates and extracted some of the choicest nuggets. The advantage of an investigation made on the ground shows itself in a vividness of portrayal and a wealth of illustration which, added to the author's naturally effective style, his fondness for contrast and parallel, and the inherent attractiveness of his subject, make the resulting volume decidedly readable.